PREFACE

101 114 The Rwala are recognized by all their neighbors as the only true Bedouin tribe of northern Arabia. Traveling and camping with them for months I had ample opportunities of studying their life. The results of these studies are given in this volume. I have found it advisable, however, to add some [115] details which I learned from my companion Blejhân eben Meṣreb, who was not a Rwejli (or member of the Rwala), but hailed from the Ḳmuṣa division of the Sba'a tribe. Both Sba'a and Rwala belong to the 'Aneze group, the Ḳmuṣa being neighbors of the Rwala and almost identical with the latter in manners and customs.

104 In transliterating Arabic terms, phrases, sentences, ditties, and poems I have tried to reproduce exactly the words of those whom I quote — Rwala, for the most part. I have not corrected their many inconsistencies in grammar and pronunciation. All the ditties, songs, and poems were explained to me in the desert. I used no dictionary as an aid to their translation.

In transliterating Arabic letters I have used the same signs as in my works *The Northern Ḥeǧâz* (New York, 1926), *Arabia Deserta, The Middle Euphrates* (New York, 1927), *Palmyrena*, and *Northern Neǧd* (New York, 1928), attempting to express each sound by a single letter or a single symbol. The meaning of the different symbols is indicated below.

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